



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.—March 1, Mr. Gladstone introduced and explained in the House of Commons his bill to disestablish the Irish Church, intended to go into effect January, 1871. A commission will be appointed for ten years to guard the property of the Church, and prevent the creation of new interests. All ecclesiastical appointments for Ireland are hereafter to be made without freehold, and no money is to be employed for permanent purposes. It is assumed that the clergy and people may desire to have other religious organizations for those which they are about to give up. In that case, the Queen would recognize the newly constituted religious bodies, but would not create them. The result would be the abolition of ecclesiastical courts and jurisdiction, and of the right of bishops to the peerage; all ecclesiastical corporations would be dissolved, and then the disestablishment would be complete.

Provision is made for the clergy, who are to receive life annuities. All private endowments are to remain intact. The Church is to be handed over to a council for religious purposes. Grants are proposed for the support of twelve cathedrals, regarded as national property. Church buildings no longer needed are to be used for the benefit of a fund, and burial grounds placed under the charge of guardians of the poor. The Presbyterian clergy are to receive annuities instead of the *regium donum*, (an annual grant hitherto made,) and the Roman Catholic college of Maynooth and the Presbyterian colleges are to be granted capitalized sums. Church leases are to be sold, tenants having the first option. The capitalized value of Church property is estimated at £16,500,000, of which £8,000,000 is appropriated to compensation, and the remainder to be employed for the advantage of the Irish people; not for the purposes of any Church or class, nor for teaching religion, but for relief in cases of unavoidable calamity. Grants are to be made to provide for the care of lunatics, for training nurses, and for the support of county infirmaries.

The late Parliamentary Reform is likely to work a variety of important changes in the interest of the people. A bill has been introduced into Parliament to abolish university tests; and the prospect is that the universities of England will be open not only to all denominations, but to women as well as men. A movement is started for Ocean Penny Postage in conjunction especially with the United States, and John Bright in a recent speech came out strongly in its favor.

FRANCE.—By orders received from Paris all soldiers and sailors who were recruited in the year 1862 have been discharged from the military and naval depots. As to prospects of peace in Europe, the chief danger turns on the attitude of France and Prussia towards each other; and the man at the head of each has of late taken fresh occasion to avow his pacific intentions.

The North German Parliament met at Berlin on the 3d inst., and its session was opened by the king in a speech almost wholly devoted to expressions of peace, and commendations of a pacific policy. He inferred that the late Paris Conference was a proof that all Europe is solicitous for repose, and declared that the first duty of the North German Confederation was to maintain friendly relations with the other Powers of the earth.

Still none of these assurances seem to be satisfactory; and a recent "letter written by a distinguished statesman and jurist in Germany to a friend in New York," says "war with France is steadily preparing. Napoleon III. labors most unequivocally toward it, and it seems that he is going to make the King of Italy his ally, despite the

opposite sympathies and interests of the Italian people. As a third ally, in the background, is Austria biding her time. The Emperor and Premier are bent on vengeance against Prussia. It is to be hoped that the Hungarians will exact a stop in that quarter. At the bottom, it is the clergy who stir the fire. The great question is Priestcraft and Cæsarism on the one hand, and Germanic independence and liberty on the other. It is impossible that Rome, rotten and absurd, shall again rule Europe, even if Pope and French Emperor are allied; but it will cost much blood, much wealth, and the graves of many high-souled men."

SPAIN.—Her people have shown, what is doubtless felt all over Europe, a strong, even mutinous hostility to raising troops by conscription. The ministry asked of the Cortes power to raise 25,000 recruits in this way as necessary to complete the army. After a long debate, the majority of the Cortes voted in favor of granting the power to the ministry; but resolutions were passed declaring that in the future military conscriptions should be discontinued. A demonstration was made in Madrid on Sunday by the people against conscription. Another insurrectionary attempt is reported in Andalusia. . . . It seems at length settled in fact, if not in form, that the new form of government in Spain is to be a constitutional and elective monarchy, with two branches of the legislature, universal suffrage, religious freedom, a free press, free speech, civil marriages, and a separation of the Church from the State. The Duke of Montpensier declares that he does not seek the Spanish throne; that, should he be chosen King, he will accept the crown, but he wishes that the question of his election may not be made a pretext for civil war.

March 24. A draft of the new constitution was laid before the Constituent Cortes to-day. Its leading features are as follows: The government is to be Monarchical in form, with a Senate and Congress. The Senatorial term is limited to thirteen years. Senators are to be elected by Provisional Councils—four for each Province. Deputies to the Congress are to be elected every three years by universal suffrage. The reign of the King is limited to a term of eighteen years. The majority of the committee which reported the Constitution are favorable to the separation of the State and Church. The minority propose that the Roman Catholic be retained as the religion of the State with toleration for other creeds. The liberty of the press and the right of public meeting are fully guaranteed by the new Constitution.

BIBLE IN SPAIN.—The way seems open for its free circulation among the common people in Spain, and the British and Foreign Bible Society have decided to issue successive editions of Valera's version to the extent of one million copies. Whatever may be the result of the circulation of the Bible in that country, it is quite certain to be connected with a general revival of literature, for wherever the Bible goes all other kinds of books follow. There is a national pride in having books published in Spain, but when brought from abroad, a strong preference for those from the United States.

TURKEY AND GREECE.—The Greek government has officially announced the re-establishment of friendly relations with Turkey. The Porte has issued a circular to the great Powers, thanking them for the attitude taken by them in the difficulties with Greece.